UNITED NATIONS

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/30/16
25 April 2018
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Thirtieth session
Beirut, 25-28 June 2018

Item 18 of the provisional agenda

Proposed amendments to the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019

Summary

This document presents proposed amendments to the strategic framework and programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 2018-2019. These amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the Commission adopted the revised draft strategic framework at its twenty-ninth session held in Doha in December 2016, and the proposed programme of work for 2018-2019 at the third meeting of the Executive Committee held in Rabat, in May 2017.

The Commission is invited to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the strategic framework and the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.

18-00191

Introduction

1. This document presents amendments proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to the strategic framework and the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019. These amendments are based on the new mandates that emanated from the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the global and regional needs and challenges that have emerged since the Commission adopted the revised draft strategic framework at its twenty-ninth session held in Doha in December 2016, and the proposed programme of work for 2018-2019 at the third meeting of the Executive Committee held in Rabat, in May 2017.

2. The secretariat is proposing these changes to better align the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with ESCWA resolution 322 (EC.2) of 16 December 2015 on the Strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The changes are also aimed at making optimal use of the resources available while enhancing the quality, relevance and impact of services provided to member States.

3. The Commission is invited to consider the proposed amendments with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the strategic framework and programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.

I. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019

4. The amendments proposed by the secretariat to the strategic framework are intended to allow for more complete reporting of the activities implemented by the ESCWA Unit for the 2030 Agenda, created in the framework of the ESCWA strategy and plan of action on the Agenda adopted by the Commission in resolution 322 (EC.2) of 16 December 2015.

5. The below table provides the proposed amendments, all made under the strategic framework narrative for subprogramme 2 on social development, in the framework of which the Unit for the 2030 Agenda was established. One proposed expected accomplishment is added, labelled (d), along with three indicators of achievement. The proposed additions are featured in bold in the table.

Expected accomplishments		Indicators of achievement	
(a)	Further development of rights-based social policies or programmes that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in member States, with a focus on social inclusion and social protection	(a) (i)	Increased number of policies or programmes developed or enhanced to improve social protection and expand the provision of social services
		(ii)	Increased number of policies or programmes targeting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups
(b)	Increased engagement of member States in intraregional consultations towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration	(b) (i)	Increased number of instances where member States engage in regional policy dialogue on international migration, facilitated by ESCWA
		(ii)	Increased number of policies that reflect member States' awareness of the development opportunities and challenges of international migration
(c)	Increased emphasis by member States on a social justice approach to development planning based on equality, equity and participation	(c) (i)	Increased number of government and non-government institutions that apply ESCWA tools in policymaking towards fostering social justice for all

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
	(ii) Increased number of member States that engage in multi-stakeholder consultations on key national and regional social development priorities, facilitated by ESCWA
(d) Increased ability of member States to implement, follow-up on and review the 2030 Agenda	**(d) (i) Increased number of research materials and reports on the 2030 Agenda produced and disseminated in the Arab region**
	(ii) Increased number of national plans and strategies integrating the Sustainable Development Goals
	(iii) Increased number of instances where member States engage in regional dialogues on the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda

II. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019

6. The amendments proposed by the secretariat to the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 are aimed at making optimal use of the resources available while further enhancing the quality, relevance and impact of services provided to member States.

7. The following matrix provides the proposed amendments itemized by subprogramme.

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Subprogramme 2 Social development					
Ad hoc expert meetings					
Expert group meeting on population and sustainable development			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Rabat on 6 and 7 May 2017, to ensure that programmes and activities cover youth issues and empowerment New title: Expert group meeting on Population and Development Report 9: Youth in the Arab region

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Technical material					
Social policy brief on ageing			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Rabat on 6 and 7 May 2017, to ensure that programmes and activities cover youth issues and empowerment New title: Social policy brief on youth
Seminars					
Regional awareness-raising seminar on the adaptation and alignment of Sustainable Development Goals into national plans (2018)			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes New title: Regional seminar for parliamentarians on the 2030 Agenda (2018)
Regional awareness-raising seminar on the adaptation and alignment of Sustainable Development Goals into national plans (2019)			1		Reformulated by the secretariat for programmatic purposes New title: Regional seminar for parliamentarians on the 2030 Agenda (2019)
Total for subprogramme 2			**4**		
Subprogramme 4 Technology for development and regional integration					
Ad hoc expert meetings					
Expert group meeting on the impact of artificial intelligence and the latest technological revolution (Internet of Things) on production functions, economic structures, productivity in manufacturing and other sectors			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Rabat on 6 and 7 May 2017, to ensure that programmes and activities cover youth issues and empowerment New title: High-level meeting on frontier technologies and innovation to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region and increase its impact on employment and youth
Total for subprogramme 4			**1**		
Subprogramme 6 Advancement of women					
Ad hoc expert meetings					
Expert group meeting on women's advancement with a focus on the 2030 Agenda			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the eighth session of the Committee on Women, held in Beirut on 4 and 5 October 2017, to support national women's machineries in implementing a model on the economic cost of violence against women New title: Consultative meeting on gender and intersectionality

Activity	Status				Justification
	Terminated	Added	Reformulated	Postponed	
Technical material					
Report on the advancement of women with a focus on the 2030 Agenda			1		Reformulated at the request of member States during the eighth session of the Committee on Women, held in Beirut on 4 and 5 October 2017, to support national women's machineries in implementing a model on the economic cost of violence against women New title: A step-by-step approach to costing violence against women in the Arab region.
Total for subprogramme 6			**2**		
Grand total for ESCWA			**7**		